

MAKING'S LAST REPORT.

ALL WELL ON MARCH 18 AND BOER CORDON MUCH RELAXED.

Part of the Force Withdrawn to Check Plumer's Relief Column—English Anxiety for the Town's Safety—Some Boers Surrender to Clements at Philippolis.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 25.—The War Office has received the following despatch from Gen. Roberts:

"(LONDON) PHILIPPOLIS, March 25.—A telegram has just been received from Col. Nicholson (Commandant-General of Rhodesia) at Bulawayo, forwarding news from Col. Baden-Powell, (commander at Mafeking), who states that all was well on March 13, and that during the past few days the enemy's cordon has been much relaxed."

Gen. Roberts also reports that the officers of the force who were fired upon and wounded on March 23 are now at Bloemfontein. They are doing well.

LONDON, March 26.—If anything of importance has occurred in South Africa the correspondents have not been allowed to transmit it. Many therefore resort to suggesting a course which ought to be pursued toward the Boers, and the war. They are unanimous in declaring that the loyalists fear the British Government may be too lenient, and the counsel drastic punishment of the rebels, including deprivation temporarily, or in some cases permanently, of the right of franchise.

The mission to the Guards' officers generally put down the Boer rebels as a serious matter, and an old Boer trap. The Guards' camp, the fourteen miles north of Bloemfontein, and the disaster occurred six miles north of the camp.

Another despatch mentions that the Boers are troublesome and are raiding twenty miles to the north. The Guards' officers were probably investigating when they were attacked by the enemy.

There is practically no news from Natal beyond a statement that a move by Gen. Buller is expected very shortly.

The main anxiety in England is concerning Mafeking, where for the present the chief interest is centered. The Boers are not expected to have been forced to withdraw, but he has been drawn off by Commandant Snyman, Col. Pomeroy, and, however, regarded as less likely to be effective inasmuch as one of his forces in a letter home stated that they were on half rations on Feb. 4. Col. Baden-Powell, who is holding Mafeking, apparently must rely on himself until the Kimberley column or Gen. Roberts relieves him.

There is nothing of importance from Gen. Roberts. His supplies are reported to be steadily accumulating. The situation in the Free State south of a line through Bloemfontein remains somewhat doubtful. It seems that there is a considerable Boer force moving by way of a trifling force, the Basuto border toward Ladysburg.

Gen. French is at Thaba N'chu. The country between him and Ladysburg is very hilly. The Boers, with their guns, commanded by Commandant Olivier, may penetrate the hills and join the enemy at Kroonstad. Gen. Gatacre's force is pursuing them, but apparently they are only a trifling force.

Another Boer force is at Faurem-Smith, which place Boers from Philippolis and Springfield and that neighborhood are probably making their way.

Numerous arrests, including those of prominent Afrikaners, are constantly reported from the various towns occupied by the British in the southern districts.

BOERS DIDN'T WANT A SHOT.

It Was a Party From Johannesburg Who Trapped the British Officers.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

From THE SUN'S Correspondent With Gen. Roberts.

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 25.—While Lieut. Col. A. E. Codrington of the First Battalion of the Buffs, and Lieut. Col. M. S. Craib of the Third Battalion of the Grenadier Guards, Capt. Lygon, Regimental Adjutant of the Grenadiers, Lieut. G. F. Trotter of the Grenadiers, an orderly and a guide from Grahamstown were riding north six miles beyond the Guards' lines in the direction of a farm in Dispers's Glen Friday they saw four Boers near a kopje. They rode toward the hill and when they were three hundred yards from it they encountered a sharp fire from the kopje. Capt. Lygon was hit in the heart and killed. Lieut. Col. Codrington was hit below the thigh and Lieut. Col. Craib in the wrist. Lieut. Trotter was wounded in the arm. The orderly and guide were also hit.

The Boers, it was subsequently learned, were from Johannesburg. They took the wounded British to a farmhouse, where they dressed their wounds and otherwise attended to them, after which they left them. Capt. Lygon was buried in the afternoon.

Gen. French's division has been to Thaba N'chu.

LOYAL DUTCH PROTEST.

Roberts' Promise to Protect Rebels Who Surrender Not Approved.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 25.—A news agency despatch from Ladysburg, dated March 24, says that Gen. Roberts' proclamation, as it is understood, disallows the loyal Dutch because it is taken to mean that Gen. Roberts has morally pledged himself to protect on the termination of the war the lives and property of rebels who lay down their arms and return to their homes.

Gen. Roberts' proclamation accuses the Free State Government of being guilty of a wanton and unjustifiable invasion of British territory. It says that the British Government believes that the responsibility for this rests wholly with the Government and it therefore wishes the people of the Orange Free State to understand that it wishes them to be so far as is compatible with successful conduct of the war and the reestablishment of peace, it is anxious to preserve them from the evils brought upon them by the wrongful action of their Government. The above passage is probably what the Natalians, Kimberleyites and others in South Africa protest against as being too lenient.

DUKE OF NORFOLK TO FIGHT.

He Will Go to the Front With the Sussex Yeomanry.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 25.—The report is confirmed that the Duke of Norfolk, Postmaster-General, who has hitherto been much disappointed by the unsuccessful efforts to serve in the army in South Africa, will go to the front as an officer of the Sussex Yeomanry.

Volsraad Summoned to Meet at Kroonstad on April 4.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

Cape Town, March 25.—It is reported that the Volksraad of the Orange Free State has been summoned to meet at Kroonstad on April 2.

Working on the War Newspaper.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BLOEMFONTEIN, March 24.—Robert Kipling is hard at work in the office of the newspaper, "The Friend," which is edited by the war correspondents with Gen. Roberts.

CLEMENS OCCUPIES PHILIPPOLIS.

Many Burgers Surrender—Fighting Force Retires to Faurem-Smith.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PHILIPPOLIS, Orange Free State, March 23 (Delayed).—Gen. Clements entered this town yesterday morning. Many Coleridge rebels were arrested in and around the place. A telegram was sent to the office here and called upon Faurem-Smith. The operator at that place, replying to the Englishman's signal, said: "I am a Free State burgler and can do nothing for an Englishman."

The Boer commando left here on Saturday and it is reported that it is melting away. What remains of it is reported to be near Faurem-Smith.

Gen. Clements assembled the burglers in the court house and read Gen. Roberts' proclamation to them. He added one of his own, calling upon them to surrender their arms and to take an oath not to participate any further in the war. His proclamation then provided that if it could be shown that the applicants had not taken a leading part in the policy of the Republic or in the hostilities they would be allowed to return to their farms. It was added that the burglers might be certain that the Government at Bloemfontein would never be restored. They were advised therefore to accept the inevitable. Gen. Clements said that the landrosts and other lawless men had been reappointed under the British Government.

The burglers were attentive and began handing in their arms and taking the oath as soon as the opportunity was given.

LONDON, March 26.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Philippolis says that the village is full of Boers who are residing in arms. Only five Boers have been sent to the British lines. The surrendered weapons are mostly old and broken guns. It is reported that most of the Burgers are buried at Grootelaar.

A prisoner, who was interviewed, said there was satisfaction in knowing that for every Boer who was sent to the British lines, the Englishman had been killed. The British possession of the Free State, he added, is a dangerous thing. There will always be rebellions.

PRETORIA PREPARING FOR A SIEGE.

Transvaal Hope to Hold Out Until Intervention Gets Them Good Terms.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 25.—A Durban correspondent, telegraphing under date of March 24, says that authentic information has reached that city that Pretoria is aware that the Republic's forces must finally be beaten, but the Boers in the Transvaal capital think they can hold out for from four to six months, when they firmly believe that intervention will force the British to grant favorable terms, including independence. They look to Germany and the United States for intervention.

Pretoria is being prepared for a siege. The guns are occasionally fired in order to take the ranges. Mines have been laid and other preparations made. The pretenses there now receive little treatment. They have been supplied with bread, and each man gets a pound of meat weekly.

At Waterfall, where there are over 3,000 prisoners, the situation of the camp is unhealthy. The shelter for the men is insufficient, and the water is very bad. The prisoners are suffering from the lack of food and the bad water.

Another Boer force is at Faurem-Smith, which place Boers from Philippolis and Springfield and that neighborhood are probably making their way.

Numerous arrests, including those of prominent Afrikaners, are constantly reported from the various towns occupied by the British in the southern districts.

DELAGOA RAY AWARD DELAYED.

Amount of Indemnity Fixed, but Its Division Not Decided.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

BERNE, March 25.—The decision of the arbitrators in the matter of the seizure of the Delagoa Bay Railway has been postponed. The amount of indemnity to be paid by Portugal has been fixed, but there is a difficulty regarding the distribution of the award to the different groups of claimants representing the various companies of the railway.

Pro-Boer Meeting in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, March 25.—A largely attended pro-Boer meeting was held in Lehman's Hall here this evening, under the auspices of many of the leading business and professional men of the city. The speakers were Mr. J. M. White of the Transvaal, and Philip Lott of the Orange Free State.

MYSTERY WITHOUT A MURDER.

Missing Traveller Whom a Thief Boasted He Had "Knocked Out" Turns Up.

Detective Thomas of the Elizabeth street station was dining in a restaurant at 144 West street on Monday night when he heard a man tell a companion at an adjoining table how he had "knocked out a fellow named Daniel Martin." The man was promptly arrested and taken to the station. When he was searched the police found in his possession checks for four hundred dollars, a wallet containing \$100, and a small box containing a diamond ring and a watch. The man was taken to the station and charged with the theft of the property of Daniel Martin.

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DID HAY MAKE A BLUNDER?

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE OFFER OF MEDIATION IN THE BOER WAR.

It Is Said That It May Render Negatory the Provision of The Hague Treaty in Which the Powers Recognize That the Monroe Doctrine Is in Full Force.

WASHINGTON, March 25.—The constant repetition from European capitals and from Pretoria of the statement that this or that Continental country has answered the Boer mediation overtures with a polite designation to offer its good offices to bring the war to a close, on the ground that the invitation does not come from legitimate authority, is serving to emphasize in the minds of public men here the importance of the position assumed by the United States in tendering to Great Britain what practically amounted to the expression of a hope that this Government would be permitted to act as mediator.

While the effect of the United States in placing itself at the disposal of the British and the Boers as a peacemaker is regarded as laudable from a humanitarian standpoint, there is some concern expressed over the possible effect of the American overtures. It had been given out by Administration officials, prior to the request for mediation, that the United States was not to be regarded as a mediator for two important reasons. One was that mediation could not properly be offered, as expressed by President McKinley in his last annual message, unless both belligerents requested it. The other reason was that in this declaration in The Hague Treaty.

"Nothing contained in this convention shall be construed as to require the United States of America to depart from its traditional policy of not intruding upon interfering with, or entangling itself in the political questions or policy of internal administration of any foreign country."

This clause was inserted at the instance of the American delegates to The Hague Conference, and the virtual pledge contained to keep out of European politics was given by the official representatives of this Government in return for an acknowledgment of the Monroe Doctrine by all the signatories of the treaty in these words:

"We shall abstain from any action in the said convention be construed to imply a relinquishment of the United States of its traditional attitude toward purely American questions."

According to officials here, who before the receipt of the Kruger and Steyn appeal to the United States for a tender of its good offices to bring the war to a close, and who believe that the Government had not responded to the sentiment in this country in favor of the United States taking the initiative in the peace proposal, the clause quoted from The Hague convention was a pledge that the United States would not interfere in political matters affecting foreign nations, and that, confronted with the present situation, it would, without violating it, offer mediation, unless requested to do so by both Great Britain and the Boer Republics. For one of the belligerents to request American aid to secure peace, it was explained, was not enough; both parties to the war must do so.

Considerable surprise was felt here therefore when it was learned that the Government, in response to the request of President Kruger and Steyn, had made what amounted to a tender of its services as mediator to Great Britain. Before the correspondence between the parties to the negotiations at Pretoria, Washington and London was made public, there was a disposition on the part of men who are officials and personally interested in diplomatic questions to disregard the statements that the good offices of the United States had been offered to Great Britain. This view was supported by the statements emanating from officials familiar with what was going on between the three capitals, that the United States had offered its services as mediator, not as a mediator, the distinction being made that an intermediary was a messenger to transmit communications between two nations that, on account of their quarrel, could not communicate with each other directly.

When the correspondence on the subject was published, however, the President's statement in The Hague treaty served as an effective bar to an offer of mediation by the United States, were astonished that such an offer had been made. They construed the message of Secretary Hay to Lord Salisbury, transmitted through the British ambassador, as a direct denial of mediation, the word "interference" being used by Secretary Hay in the message as a synonym for the plain language used, and the construction which officials here placed on the message was that the United States had offered its services as mediator, not as a mediator, the distinction being made that an intermediary was a messenger to transmit communications between two nations that, on account of their quarrel, could not communicate with each other directly.

The importance of the clause pursued by the United States in the Hague Treaty, and the fact that the United States had offered its services as mediator, not as a mediator, the distinction being made that an intermediary was a messenger to transmit communications between two nations that, on account of their quarrel, could not communicate with each other directly.

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CLINTON INSTITUTE BURNED.

It Was a Preparatory School and Military Academy—Loss About \$100,000.

PORT PLAIN, N. Y., March 25.—Clinton Liberal Institute, a college preparatory school and United States military academy, was destroyed by fire this afternoon. The fire, which commenced shortly before 4 o'clock, was caused by a burning and disintegrating procedure being used at this time. The building was comparatively vacant, the students and most of the faculty having left for their homes yesterday to spend the regular Easter vacation. The institute occupied a high, conspicuous place, and the fire started at a point that was most favorable for spreading to the main building. The local fire department responded promptly, but their efforts were fruitless. In less than a half hour the big five-story building was a mass of flames. About an hour after the alarm the big tower fell with a crash and was quickly followed by the main building. The hour and a half that the fire was practically over, all that was inflammable having been consumed, and an area of smoking ruins marked the site of one of the leading educational institutions of its class in the country.

Clinton Liberal Institute was owned by the University of the State of New York, and was situated on the site of the old Clinton Liberal Institute, which was destroyed by fire in 1892. The building was a two-story structure, 100 feet wide and 25 feet deep. It was built of brick and contained a large number of rooms. The building was situated on a hill, and the fire spread rapidly to the main building. The local fire department responded promptly, but their efforts were fruitless. In less than a half hour the big five-story building was a mass of flames. About an hour after the alarm the big tower fell with a crash and was quickly followed by the main building. The hour and a half that the fire was practically over, all that was inflammable having been consumed, and an area of smoking ruins marked the site of one of the leading educational institutions of its class in the country.

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